(b) if so, the action taken by Government to provide relief to the coffee growers, whose productivity was affected by the adverse weather conditions; and

(c) whether Government have a long term policy to protect the coffee growers from the ill effects of the adverse weather conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) In the past, coffee growing regions were affected by drought conditions and build up of temperature which are conducive for the white stem borer pest to manifest and spread rapidly in growing tracts.

(b) The Coffee Board launched the 'Catch and Kill Programme' during 2004-05 under which growers were provided incentives for mechanically collecting grubs and adult pests which helped in considerable reduction in the pest population. Further, such planters were also provided with free of cost seedlings to replace the borer affected plants.

Further, the Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) in consultation with Coffee Board introduced a weather and yield risk management product *viz.* the Coffee Rainfal Index and Area Yield insurance (CRIAY) on a pilot basis in three coffee growing districts of Karnataka during March 2005 with the objective to cover the risks arising out of rainfall and yield.

(c) The Govt. of India in consultation with Coffee Board and the Agricultural Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) is working out modalities of Coffee Weather (Rainfall) Insurance Scheme to provide insurance to Coffee growers against deficit/excess rainfall in all major coffee growing States.

SEZs in Andhra Pradesh

877. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Special Economic Zones in Andhra Pradesh, sector-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that an IT-product-specific Special Economic Zone was inaugurated recently at Keesarpali village in Krishna District of that State;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the State Government is very keen to develop Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, Warrangal, Guntur and Nellore as Tier-II cities, besides Hyderabad, for the promotion of IT Industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Three Special Economic zones (SEZs) are operational in Andhra Pradesh namely Vishakhpatnam Special Economic Zone (for Multiproduct), Divi's Laboratories Limited (Pharmaceuticals) and Wipro Limited (for IT/ITES).

(b) No, Sir. Only foundation stone was laid by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 27.5.2006.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) These cities have been identified by the State Government for being promoted as Tier-II cities in the State and Nodal Officers for hand-holding, interacting with the industry and providing requisite facilitations, with special package of incentives for locating the IT units in Tier II hubs.

Steps to increase exports

† 878. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present quantum of imports is higher than the exports;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the import rate has registered about 31 per cent increase, in comparison to the last years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, and the effective steps taken by Government to increase exports, in comparison to imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Based upon the provisional estimates available, the total imports during the first quarter of the current fiscal i.e. April-June 2006-07 are valued at US $ 40281.28 million as against exports of US $ 27671.93 million. The imports, during the month of June 2006 are valued at US $ 13763.86 million against exports of US $ 9967.08 million. In rupee terms, the imports during June 2006 indicate a growth of 31-02% over imports during June 2005.

(c) The details of India's foreign trade during the last three years are as under:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.